

MERLINS BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 6-30pm, online via the Zoom videoconferencing platform, and in person at Pembroke College, Merlin's Bridge, Haverfordwest

Present: Cllrs. John Cole, Veronica James, Kate Bevan, Craig Reeves, Jan Morgan, Ian Lewis, Michelle Lewis; Peter Horton (Clerk).

Apologies: C'llrs Mary Owen, Alison Palmer, Mike Dare.

The meeting was chaired by the vice-Chairman C'llr Jan. Morgan. Members welcomed C'llrs Craig Reeves and Kate Bevan to their first meeting.

Declaration of known interests

None.

Approval of minutes of September 2022 monthly meeting

These were approved by Members, and retained by the Clerk for signature following the meeting (proposer C'llr John Cole, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis).

Matters arising

Parking by fish shop. Members noted that the situation was still occurring at certain times of day. Matter still in hand with P.C.C. to look at any possible measures to improve the situation.

Speed-activated signage outside Rugby Club. Matter still in hand with C'llr John Cole / P.C.C. It was confirmed that any signs could be calibrated to suit new 20mph speed limits if and when imposed.

Happy to chat bench. The bench had been delivered by the Clerk to C'llr John Cole, and was due to be sited the following Friday. C'llr Michelle Lewis requested any suitable photographs to post on the Facebook page.

Community newsletter. C'llr Jan. Morgan confirmed that the newsletters had been printed, and were in the process of being delivered throughout the community.

Plans

There were no plans for discussion this month

Correspondence

01) Amey – consultation on exceptions to proposed 20mph speed limits in built up area on trunk roads – Members were content with the proposals. Clerk to respond accordingly.

02) Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales – Members voted to opt for the basic Members' allowance plus the flat rate stipulated by the Panel for consumables, this to be effective for the 2023/24 financial year, and as specified in the Report determination 4 (proposer C'llr Ian Lewis, seconder C'llr Jan. Morgan).

03) Letter of thanks for donation to Junior Football Club – noted. Works were understood to be due to commence during October.

Accounts

Payments

C'llr Kate Bevan (Member allowance for current year, pro-rata)	:	£ 75
C'llr Craig Reeves (Member allowance for current year, pro-rata)	:	£ 75
Cleddau Press (newsletter printing)	:	£190-00

The above payments were approved by Members (proposer C'llr John Cole, seconder C'llr Veronica James).

Quarterly budget statement effective 30th September 2022

Members had been circulated the budget review effective September 30th. This was noted.

County Councillor's report

Speeding issues. Some speeding issues were ongoing in the Community.

Highways issues. Some complaints had been received about deterioration of some estate roads, in part apparently due to the bin lorries using the roads, over-running kerbs, etc. C'llr Ian Lewis mentioned an uneven section of road a little way on the Haverfordwest side of the mini-roundabout. C'llr Kate Bevan mentioned a noisy manhole cover on the highway behind their house. C'llr Michelle Lewis mentioned a streetlight opposite their property facing the wrong way. John Cole undertook to report these matters.

Cheese factory visit. C'llr John Cole was still awaiting details of a possible date / time for a visit to the site.

VC Gallery. It was pointed out that the V.C. Gallery could be visited at any time during normal opening times, as it was open to the public. It would be more a case of co-ordinating a visit between individual Members. Members agreed for C'llr John Cole to invite them to attend a future meeting, to talk about their activities.

Discussion of co-option of new councillors

Members noted that there were still two open vacancies. All were encouraged to consider possible candidates. Clerk to re-post the vacancy notice on the Community webpage. C'llr Michelle Lewis also undertook to post a notice on the Community Facebook page.

Discussion of possible flower bed initiative

No response had yet been received from P.C.C. regarding the request for flower beds to be incorporated into their planting schedule. Matter to be placed on November agenda for further discussion. In the meantime, Clerk to seek to obtain fruit trees via the Woodland Trust scheme. Members felt that around a couple of dozen or so trees would be about right. It was noted that once received, the final locations for planting would need to be finalised with the P.C.C. Streetcare Department.

Discussion of formation of Community Council training policy

Members voted to adopt the training plan as drafted (proposer C'llr John Cole, seconder C'llr Michelle Lewis). Clerk to arrange to circulate training opportunities as and when received.

Discussion of Biodiversity Enhancement Statement

C’llr Michelle Lewis had produced and circulated an initial draft. Members were very impressed with the document, and thanked C’llr Lewis for her work. Agenda item to be tabled for November to adopt the document, with C’llr Michelle Lewis arranging to finalise the report in the meantime, with input from Members by email as needed.

Discussion of any necessary arrangements for Remembrance Day observance

Members were informed that, as usual, the service would be held at 9-15am on Remembrance Sunday. Clerk to ask C’llr Alison Palmer about arrangements for asking the bugler to attend.

Discussion of request for additional postbox provision in Community

Members felt that an additional postbox was needed in the Community, to be situated on the green area in Greenhill Crescent. Clerk to make formal enquiry / application to Royal Mail for this, citing the number of elderly residents, and size of community overall, as reasons for the request.

Any Other business

Agenda items for November.

- Arrangements to celebrate forthcoming coronation
- Preliminary 2023/24 budget discussions
- Spring newsletter (including consideration of local directory of services)
- Arrangements for Christmas, including Christmas cards / children’s competition, selection boxes, Christmas trees / lighting, Carol service, etc.

Next meeting

Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 6-30pm, in person at the Pembrokeshire College, and online using the Zoom platform.

The meeting was closed at 7-50pm.